



Food and agricultural systems operate in a highly competitive global context, and the United States is a major player in these international markets—the U.S. share of the global market for agricultural goods averages approximately 20 percent.

In recent years, changes in the rules of trade, shifts in domestic policy, and new developments in technology have altered the competitive landscape of global agriculture and the challenges facing American farmers. The USDA has created various programs to aid U.S. farmers with these uncertain times. These programs which have protected our agricultural producers and increased our product competitiveness in the global marketplace should be expanded to ensure that our nation's population and economy thrive in the 21st century.

Of particular importance is the State of California, which in 2005 set a new record for agricultural exports, surpassing \$9 billion for the first time. This represents a 13 percent increase over 2004 and a 24 percent increase over 2003.

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service must remain active in trade negotiations, market promotion, and long-term market development.

With increased global trade, the health of production agriculture is dependent upon the role of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to protect our nation's borders from invasive species, which can decimate American agriculture. American agriculture

must be able to react to changes in international trade relations and new and unanticipated economic realities. Programs include:

Foreign Market Development Programs assists nonprofit U.S. agricultural trade organizations in developing and maintaining foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products through a cost-share program.

Market Access Program helps U.S. trade organizations and small-sized entities create, expand and maintain foreign markets through promotional activities for U.S. agricultural commodities and products.

Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops helps the specialty crop industry deal with sanitary-phytosanitary issues that are a critical factor in global markets.

Emerging Markets Program assists U.S. public and private organizations in improving market opportunities for U.S. agricultural products in low-to middle-income countries with market potential.

The Foreign Agricultural Service has the primary responsibility for USDA's international activities—market development, trade agreements and negotiations, and the collection and analysis of statistics and market information. It also administers USDA's export credit guarantee and food aid programs, and helps increase income and food availability in developing nations by mobilizing expertise for agriculturally led economic growth.



California Supports:

- Increasing funding for market development programs such as the Foreign Market Development Program, the Market Access Program, Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops and the Emerging Markets Program.
- Keep U.S. agriculture competitive through support of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, Agricultural Trade Offices. These are the only federal agricultural trade services available to California farmers, ranchers, producers and processors.